

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00852 281737Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 /091 W
-----094029 281739Z /50

O 281700Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7193
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: MORE DISCUSSION WITH VAN HEERDEN ON WALVIS BAY

REF: STATE 107556

1. BRITISH MINISTER SUMMERHAYES AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR PROBED
VAN HEERDEN FURTHER TODAY ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS, INCLUDING
WALVIS BAY.

2. IN REGARD TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S REPORTED REMARKS IN
THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE WILLING TO
NEGOTIATE THE ISSUE WITH THE FUTURE INDEPENDENT GOVT OF NAMIBIA
(CAPE TOWN 848), VAN HEERDEN SAID THE PRIME MINISTER
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WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS POSED HURRIEDLY TO HIM AS HE LEFT
PARLIAMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 25. "BUT" VAN HEERDEN WENT
ON, "WE FEEL COMFORTABLE ON THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. WE BELIEVE
WE HAVE ESTABLISHED OUR BONA FIDES IN TERMS OF WHERE WE
THINK THINGS SHOULD GO IN THE FUTURE".

3. WITHOUT REFERRING DIRECTLY TO THE PROPOSED WESTERN STATEMENT

ON WALVIS BAY, IT WAS POINTED OUT TO VAN HEERDEN THAT THE WESTERN GOVTS MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO SAY SOMETHING FURTHER ON THE FUTURE OF THE ENCLAVE, BUT IT WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE PROPOSAL AND WOULD NOT CHALLENGE THE SAG'S LEGAL POSITION. VAN HEERDEN REPLIED THAT THE SAG COULD ACCEPT A STATEMENT OF THE FOUR POINTS DISCUSSED IN FEBRUARY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PREFER THAT THEY NOT BE USED. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO VAN HEERDEN THAT IT WAS ONE THING TO SAY, AS SWAPO DEMANDED, THAT WALVIS BAY WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA, BUT ANOTHER TO ASSERT THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BECOME PART OF NAMIBIA, A POSITION WHICH WAS HELD BY ALMOST ALL OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS IN NAMIBIA INCLUDING THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE. VAN HEERDEN VAGUELY ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT.

4. COMMENT: VAN HEERDEN CLEARLY SENSED THAT HE WAS BEING PROBED ON THIS ISSUE AND HIS REPLIES WERE CAUTIOUS. THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT OVER INTERPRETED VAN HEERDEN'S PASSIVE RESPONSE TO HIS FLOATING THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE ON WALVIS BAY YESTERDAY, APRIL 27 (REFTEL). FOURIE'S SIGNALS, WHICH VAN HEERDEN MENTIONED TO THE CANADIAN AMB MAY HAVE BEEN IN REGARD TO THE FOUR POINTS. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN HIS CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY AND TODAY WITH REPS OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE, IT IS LIKELY VAN HEERDEN UNDERSTANDS AND HAS REPORTED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS BY THE WESTERN POWERS ON THE LINES PROPOSED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, WALVIS BAY, WALVIS BA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DOWNGRADE PER CAPE TOWN 852
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0553
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaetk.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a6fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107556
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2977991
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: MORE DISCUSSION WITH VAN HEERDEN ON WALVIS BAY
TAGS: PORG, PBOR, WA, SF, (VAN HEERDEN, PHILIP)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a6fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014